

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 3615 - SB 3714

February 21, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Terminates the Judicial Nominating Commission, the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, and the current process of judicial selection and retention elections. Creates supreme court districts and intermediate appellate court districts from which justices and judges for the appellate courts are to be popularly elected in contested elections. Political parties may nominate candidates for the office of Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Court of Criminal Appeals. Independent candidates may also qualify for each office.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Decrease State Expenditures - \$32,800/Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission/
FY12-13 and Subsequent Years**

**\$35,800/Judicial Nominating Commission/
FY12-13 and Subsequent Years**

Assumptions:

- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the elimination of the Judicial Evaluation Commission and the Judicial Nominating Commission will result in a recurring decrease in state expenditures of \$68,575 (\$32,800 Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission + \$35,775 Judicial Nominating Commission).
- According to the AOC, creation of election districts will not impact the Judicial Branch since the number of judges will remain the same.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, all elections, primary or general, will be held with a regularly scheduled election. There will be no additional cost to add these candidates to the ballot of a regularly scheduled August election.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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